

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending. Claim 11 has been withdrawn. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 are amended and Claim 3 is canceled. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in original Claim 3 and in the specification at e.g. page 29, lines 10-11 and page 31, lines 15-19. No new matter has been added.

The Office Action objects to Claims 1, 5 and 6. Applicants believe that the Office Action intended to object to Claims 1, 6 and 7. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended to obviate the objection.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over USP 6,720,787 to Kimura et al. in view of USP 5,163,837 to Rowlette. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Before considering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of independent Claim 1 would be helpful. In this regard, independent Claim 1 is directed to an anisotropically conductive connector including an anisotropically conductive film formed of an insulating elastic polymeric substance including a plurality of conductive path-forming parts including conductive first particles exhibiting magnetism and having a diameter r_2 of 1 to $100\mu\text{m}$. The plurality of conductive path forming parts extend in a thickness-wise direction of the film. Insulating parts mutually insulate the plurality of conductive path forming parts. A surface layer includes a reinforcing material of insulating mesh formed of an organic fiber. A diameter r_1 of the mesh openings is $\leq 500\mu\text{m}$ and a ratio of r_1/r_2 is at least 1.5.

The Office Action recognizes that Kimura does not disclose a reinforcing material formed of an insulating mesh contained in a surface layer portion on one surface side of the anisotropically conductive film. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action assertion that Rowlette provides the deficiencies of Kimura. Rowlette discloses a sheet connector 30 formed of a woof 34 and a warp 32 with contacts 36 therebetween. However, the woof and the warp are the main material forming the sheet connector 30 and are not a reinforcing material. The warp or woof individually cannot be a reinforcing mesh. Alone neither can hold contacts 36 because no cavities are formed. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Rowlette with Kimura, as each of the references disclose conductive sheets. In particular, neither Kimura nor Rowlette provide any motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a reinforcing material in a surface layer portion.

The anisotropically conductive connectors of Claim 1 inhibit permanent deformation by the contact of the target electrodes to be connected with pressure and deformation by abrasion from occurring even if the target electrodes to be connected are those projected. See specification at page 14, line 5 to page 15, line 20. Since the reinforcing material is not present at other portions other than the surface layer portion, the elasticity of the elastic polymeric substance forming the conductive film is exhibited when the conductive path forming part are pressurized. However, Rowlette discloses the insulating material is woven into warp and woof strands to define a mesh of cavities into which are fitted the contacts. These do not form a surface layer portion formed on one surface side of the anisotropically conductive film including a reinforcing material of insulating mesh, as in amended independent Claim 1.

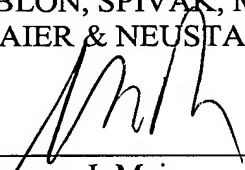
The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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